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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/874,666

06/05/2001

Suresh Ramalingam

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07/06/2004

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EXAMINER

GRAYBILL, DAVID E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/874,666		RAMALINGAM ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	David E Graybill		2827	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-14 and 31-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-14 and 31-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 June 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The reply filed on 4-26-4 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because it fails to conform to the provisions of MPEP 714.03:

37 CFR 1.111. Reply by applicant or patent owner to a non-final Office action.

(b) In order to be entitled to reconsideration or further examination, the applicant or patent owner must reply to the Office action. The reply by the applicant or patent owner must be reduced to a writing which distinctly and specifically points out the supposed errors in the examiner's action and must reply to every ground of objection and rejection in the prior Office action. The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. If the reply is with respect to an application, a request may be made that objections or requirements as to form not necessary to further consideration of the claims be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated. The applicant's or patent owner's reply must appear throughout to be a bona fide attempt to advance the application or the reexamination proceeding to final action. A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section.

(c) In amending in reply to a rejection of claims in an application or patent under reexamination, the applicant or patent owner must clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. The applicant or patent owner must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections.

Where a bona fide response to an examiner's action is filed before the expiration of a permissible period, but through an apparent oversight or inadvertence some point necessary to a complete response has been omitted - such as an amendment or argument as to one or two of several claims involved or signature to the amendment - the examiner, as soon as he or she notes the omission, should require the applicant to complete his or her response within a specified time limit (usually one month) if the period for response has already expired or insufficient time is left to take action before the expiration of the period. If this is done the application should not be held abandoned even though the prescribed period has expired.

Specifically, the 112 first paragraph rejection of claims 7-14 and 31-35 for insufficient written description has not been addressed.

Also, the 112 first paragraph rejection of claims 11-14 and 31-35 for lack of enablement has not been addressed.

Also, the 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 34 and 35 directed to the term "ranging" has not been addressed.

Also, the 112 second paragraph rejection of claim 35 directed to the term "adhesion property" has not been addressed.

Because the response appears to be bona fide, but through an apparent oversight or inadvertence the response is incomplete, and in order to continue to afford applicant the benefit of compact prosecution, the requirement to complete the response within a one month time limit is waived, the amendment is entered, and the claims are examined on the merits.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, all of the features specified in claims 7-14 and 31-35; in particular, all of the process limitations, must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

608.01(v) Trademarks and Names Used in Trade The expressions "trademarks" and "names used in trade" as used below have the following meanings: Trademark: a word, letter, symbol, or device adopted by one manufacturer or merchant and used to identify and distinguish his or her product from those of others. It is a proprietary word, letter, symbol, or device pointing distinctly to the product of one producer. Names Used in Trade: a nonproprietary name by which an article or product is known and called among traders or workers in the art, although it may not be so known by the public, generally. Names used in trade do not point to the product of one producer, but they identify a single article or product irrespective of producer. Names used in trade are permissible in patent applications if: (A) Their meanings are established by an accompanying definition which is sufficiently precise and definite to be made a part of a claim, or (B) In this country, their meanings are well-known and satisfactorily defined in the literature. Condition (A) or (B) must be met at the time of filing of the complete application. TRADEMARKS The relationship between a trademark and the product it identifies is sometimes indefinite, uncertain, and arbitrary. The formula or characteristics of the product may change from time to time and yet it may continue to be sold under the same trademark. In patent specifications, every element or ingredient of the product should be set forth in positive, exact, intelligible language, so that there will be no uncertainty as to what is meant. Arbitrary trademarks which are liable to mean different things at the pleasure of manufacturers do not constitute such language. Ex Parte Kattwinkle, 12 USPQ 11 (Bd. App. 1931). However, if

the product to which the trademark refers is set forth in such language that its identity is clear, the examiners are authorized to permit the use of the trademark if it is distinguished from common descriptive nouns by capitalization. If the trademark has a fixed and definite meaning, it constitutes sufficient identification unless some physical or chemical characteristic of the article or material is involved in the invention. In that event, as also in those cases where the trademark has no fixed and definite meaning, identification by scientific or other explanatory language is necessary. In re Gebauer-Fuelnegg, 121 F.2d 505, 50 USPQ 125 (CCPA 1941). The matter of sufficiency of disclosure must be decided on an individual case-by-case basis. In re Metcalfe, 410 F.2d 1378, 161 USPQ 789 (CCPA 1969). Where the identification of a trademark is introduced by amendment, it must be restricted to the characteristics of the product known at the time the application was filed to avoid any question of new matter. If proper identification of the product sold under a trademark, or a product referred to only by a name used in trade, is omitted from the specification and such identification is deemed necessary under the principles set forth above, the examiner should hold the disclosure insufficient and reject on the ground of insufficient disclosure any claims based on the identification of the product merely by trademark or by the name used in trade. If the product cannot be otherwise defined, an amendment defining the process of its manufacture may be permitted. Such amendments must be supported by satisfactory showings establishing that the specific nature or process of manufacture of the product as set forth in the amendment was known at the time of filing of the application.

The specification is objected to as being insufficient because proper identification of the product sold under the trademarks SEMICOAT 5230-JP and SEMICOAT 122X is omitted from the specification and such identification is deemed necessary under the principles set forth supra. To further clarify, the trademarks do not constitute sufficient identification because physical and chemical characteristics of the trademarked materials are involved in the invention. Specifically, the sole original, non-claim disclosure of the claimed relative adhesive and adhesion properties is the alleged relative adhesive and adhesion properties of SEMICOAT 5230-JP and SEMICOAT 122X in the specification at page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 2. However, identification of these alleged properties by scientific or other necessary explanatory language is not provided.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to

enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 7-14 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The undescribed subject matter of the claimed invention is the claims, 7 and 11 limitation, "the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesive property than the first material," and the claim 32 limitation, "the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesion property than the first material."

To determine adequacy of written description for original claims MPEP 2163IIA2(a) (redacted) instructs:

- (i) For Each Claim Drawn to a Single Embodiment Or Species:
 - (A) Determine whether the application describes an actual reduction to practice of the claimed invention.
 - (B) If the application does not describe an actual reduction to practice, determine whether the invention is complete as evidenced by a reduction to drawings or structural chemical formulas that are sufficiently detailed to show that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention as a whole.
 - (C) If the application does not describe an actual reduction to practice or reduction to drawings or structural chemical formula as discussed above, determine whether the invention has been set forth in terms of distinguishing identifying characteristics as evidenced by other descriptions of the invention that are sufficiently detailed to show that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention.
 - (1) Determine whether the application as filed describes the complete structure (or acts of a process) of the claimed invention as a whole.
 - (2) If the application as filed does not disclose the complete structure (or acts of a process) of the claimed invention as a whole, determine whether the specification discloses other relevant identifying characteristics sufficient to describe the claimed invention in such full,

clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize applicant was in possession of the claimed invention. Any claim to a species that does not meet the test described under at least one of (a), (b), or (c) must be rejected as lacking adequate written description under 35 U.S.C. 112, para. 1.

ii) For each claim drawn to a genus:

The written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice (see i)(A), above), reduction to drawings (see i)(B), above), or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the claimed genus (see i)(C), above).

Regarding claims 7-14 and 31-35, the instant application does not describe sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, reduction to drawings, or by disclosure of relevant, identifying characteristics, i.e., structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the claimed genus.

Claims 7-14 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the disclosed species wherein the first material is SEMICOAT 5230-JP and the second material is SEMICOAT 122X, does not reasonably provide enablement for the claims 7 and 11 limitation, "the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesive property than the first material," and

the claim 32 limitation, "the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesion property than the first material."

The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims without undue experimentation. The claimed genus is not enabled because the material is claimed in terms of its properties and functions, and there is no disclosed or otherwise known correlation or relationship between the properties and functions of the material genus and its composition or structure. To further clarify, although it is disclosed that the particular material species SEMICOAT 5230-JP and SEMICOAT 122X allegedly have the claimed properties and functions, there is no disclosure that the claimed properties and functions define a particular film composition genus. In addition, the invention involves unpredictable chemical reactions, and absent a statement applicable to the genus as a whole, it is indeterminable from the disclosure of the particular species what other species will work; hence, it is indeterminable what other species are members of the genus. As a result, a person skilled in the art could not make the material genus as a whole without undue experimentation. Chemical reactivity is a most unpredictable and empirical art and it is well settled that the requirement that the claims be

commensurate in scope with the enabling disclosure is particularly stringent in this area of technology. See *In re Doumani* 126 USPQ 408, *In re Grant* 134 USPQ 248, *In re Fisher* 166 USPQ 18, *Mobil Oil Corporation v. W. R. Grace and Company* 180 USPQ 418, *In re Slocombe* 184 USPQ 740, *In re Mercier* 185 USPQ 774, *Corona Cord Tire Company v. Dovan Chemical Corporation* 192 CD 255 and *In re Hawkins* 174 USPQ 157.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-14 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 7 and 11 the scope of the limitation "adhesive property," and in claim 31 the scope of the limitation "adhesion property" is indeterminable because there is no art recognized definition of material properties *adhesive* and *adhesion*, and these properties are not otherwise explicitly defined in the disclosure.

Relatedly, in claims 7 and 11 the limitation, "the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesive property than the first material," and in claim 32 the limitation, "the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesion property than

the first material," is indeterminable because there are no art recognized quantifiable material properties *adhesive* and *adhesion*, and a quantification of these properties is not otherwise disclosed. To further afford applicant the benefit of compact prosecution, it is suggested that this rejection might be overcome if applicant limits the claims to particular adhesive or adhesion units; i.e., particular adhesive and adhesion quantities, defined and adopted by convention, with which other particular adhesive and adhesion quantities of the same kind can be compared to express their value. Examples of such units are peel strength and peel resistance expressed in Kg/mm as defined in ASTM standard D 903-98 and ASTM standard D 1876-01, respectively. See also "Bynel Adhesive Resin, Series 1100 Including 1123,1124, and 11E573 Modified Ethylene Vinyl Acetate, Adhesive Evaluation." 2003: n. pag. Dupont 27 Sep. 2003 <<http://www.dupont.com/industrial-polymers/bynel/H-68911/H-68911.html>>.

In claim 35 the scope of the limitation "temperature ranting" is unclear because the term *ranting* appears to be contextually grammatically incorrect.

In the rejections *infra*, generally, reference labels are recited only for the first recitation of identical claim elements.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 7, 8, 10-14 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ameen (0340492).

At column, 8, line 6 to column 16, line 33, Ameen discloses the following:

A process for underfilling an integrated circuit that is mounted to a substrate, comprising: dispensing a first material ("undercoat" in space 41) to form an underfill which becomes attached to the integrated circuit 4 and the substrate 12; and, dispensing a second material 44 to form a circumferential fillet, the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesive property than the first material and becoming attached to the integrated circuit and the substrate, wherein the first material flows between the integrated circuit and the substrate, wherein the second material is dispensed in a pattern which surrounds the first material.

A process for underfilling an integrated circuit that is mounted to a substrate comprising: heating the substrate 12 before a first material is dispensed; dispensing the first material 41 to form an underfill, the first material becoming attached to the integrated circuit 4 and the substrate; and, dispensing a second material 44 to form a circumferential fillet, the second material being different than the first material and having a lower

adhesive property than the first material and becoming attached to the integrated circuit and the substrate, further comprising heating the first material to a gel state, wherein the substrate is heated to a temperature "160C" that is greater than a temperature "80C" for heating said first material to said gel state and mounting the integrated circuit to the substrate with a solder bump 28 before the first material is dispensed.

A process for underfilling an integrated circuit that is mounted to a substrate comprising: heating the substrate before a first material is dispensed; dispensing the first material for form an underfill, the first material becoming attached to the integrated circuit and the substrate; and, dispensing a second material only around a periphery of the integrated circuit for form a circumferential fillet, the second material being different than the first material and having a lower adhesion property than the first material and becoming attached to the integrated circuit and the substrate, further comprising heating the first material to a gel state, wherein the substrate is heated to a temperature that is greater than a temperature for heating the first material to a gel state, wherein the first material is heated to a temperature ranging between 120 degrees Celsius to 145 degrees Celsius, wherein the dispensing of the second material is at a temperature "80-100C" ranting between 80 degrees Celsius and 120 degrees Celsius.

To further clarify the disclosure of heating the first material to a gel state, this process is inherent in the process of curing the material because the material reaches a gel state before it reaches a final cured state.

To further clarify the disclosure of the second material having a lower adhesive and adhesion property than the first material, it is noted that both the first and the second material have an adhesive and adhesion property at the chip surfaces to which they are attached. In addition, the figures of Ameen are not limited to an absolute frame of reference or otherwise limited to a particular orientation, and in the frame of reference wherein the integrated circuit is below the substrate, the second material has a positionally lower adhesive and adhesion property than the first material at the chip surfaces to which they are attached.

Claims 7, 8, 10-14 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ameen (0340492).

Ameen is applied for the same reasons it was applied to the rejection of claims 7, 8, 10-14 and 31-35 supra.

However, Ameen does not appear to literally disclose the second material having a lower adhesive and adhesion property than the first material. Nonetheless, Ameen discloses that adhesive and adhesion property are result-effective variables, and it would have been an obvious

matter of design choice bounded by well known manufacturing constraints and ascertainable by routine experimentation and optimization to choose these particular claimed relative adhesive and adhesion properties because applicant has not disclosed that the relative properties are for any purpose, produce any result, or are otherwise desirable, and it appears prima facie that the product would possess utility with other relative adhesive and adhesion properties. Indeed, the sole original, non-claim disclosure for the claimed relative adhesion strength limitation is in the specification at page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 2, wherein applicant appears to disclose that the lower adhesion property is undesirable and merely coincident with other desirable material properties.

Claims 7, 8, 10-14 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ameen as applied to claims 7, 8, 10-14 and 31-35 supra, and further in combination with applicant's admitted prior art.

As applied supra, Ameen discloses the second material having a lower adhesive and adhesion property than the first material however, Ameen does not appear to literally disclose these limitations.

Notwithstanding, as cited supra, Ameen discloses a first generic epoxy underfill material and second generic epoxy fillet material, and in the specification at page 8, line 19 to page 9, line 2, and the response filed 5-

23-02 "Appendix A," applicant admits as prior art an epoxy underfill material SEMICOAT 5230JP, and an epoxy fillet material SEMICOAT 122X. In addition, the particular claimed adhesion property is an inherent property of the prior art materials. Moreover, it would have been obvious to combine prior art materials with the process of Ameen because it would provide the epoxy underfill and fillet materials of Ameen. To further clarify the disclosure that SEMICOAT 5230JP and SEMICOAT 122X are prior art, applicant's admission that these trademarked materials were in use by another at the time of filing of the instant application is prima facie evidence that the materials are prior art.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ameen or the combination of Ameen and applicant's admitted prior art as applied to claim 8, supra, and further in combination with Desai (6166434) and Lewis (6020579).

As cited, Ameen discloses wherein the first material flows, and the substrate is within an "oven" when the first material is heated between the integrated circuit and the substrate.

However, Ameen and applicant's admitted prior art do not appear to explicitly disclose wherein the substrate moves within an oven while the first material flows between the integrated circuit and the substrate.

Nonetheless, at column 1, line 65 to column 2, line 19, Desai discloses wherein a first material 108 is heated and flows between an integrated circuit 100 and substrate 106. Moreover, it would have been obvious to combine the process of Desai with the process of Ameen, or with the process of Ameen and applicant's admitted prior art, because it would assist the flow process.

However, Ameen, applicant's admitted prior art and Desai do not appear to explicitly disclose wherein the substrate moves within the oven while the first material flows.

Still, at column 8, lines 12-26; and column 9, line 56 to column 10, line 7, Lewis discloses wherein a substrate (either the "chip" or the "printed circuit board") moves within an oven 10 while a first material "underfill" is heated. In addition, it would have been obvious to combine the process of Lewis with the process of the combination of Ameen and Desai, or the combination of Ameen, applicant's admitted prior art and Desai, because it would facilitate the process of heating the first material in an oven.

Applicant's amendment and remarks filed 4-26-4 have been fully considered, and are addressed supra and infra.

Applicant traverses the rejections of the claims directed to the term "adhesive property," because, allegedly, "Adhesive property is a common

property of material used in encapsulating semiconductor devices.”

Applicant further cites references to support this allegation.

However, applicant’s allegation is respectfully deemed unpersuasive because applicant merely cites without elucidation, and the citations do not otherwise appear to support the allegation. In particular, the cited reference, “Appendix B” cannot be distinguished from the co-filed reference “Appendix A” because they are not separately identified. Moreover, the references filed on 4-26-4 are largely illegible, and the legible portions do not appear to support the allegation.

The art made of record and not applied to the rejection is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. It is cited primarily to show inventions similar to the instant invention.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

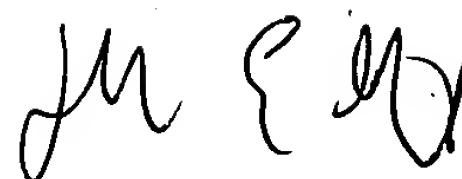
Any telephone inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status (MPEP 203.08) of this application or proceeding should be directed to Group 2800 Head SAE Linda Hodge-Taylor whose telephone number is 571-272-1585.

Any telephone inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Graybill at (571) 272-1930. Regular office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The fax phone number for group 2800 is (703) 872-9306.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jm E Graybill', written in a cursive style.

David E. Graybill
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

D.G.
30-Jun-04